(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government with regard to production of fantasy films, travel films science-fiction films in regional languages particularly in Hindi language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Films Division is the central film producing organisation of the Government of India. It produces documentaries, news magazines, animation films and features on various subjects including Indian history, the freedom struggle, folk themes from various States, science and tourism with a view to educate and motivate the people towards enlisting their active support and participation in the implementation of national programmes and to protect the image of the land and heritages of the country. The Division produces the basic version in one language which is dubbed in other languages and released all over India, whenever required. The Division gives adequate priority to subjects dealing with India's history, freedom struggle and folk themes.

As regards fantasy and science fiction films, they are left to the film industry to make such films since the production of feature films is largely in the private sector.

ईनामी प्रतियोगिता

6978. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या धारावाहिक "दि ग्रेट मराठा" के निर्माताओं द्वारा दूरदर्शन पर कोई इनामी प्रतियोगिता प्रारंभ की गई थी :

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या प्रतियोगिता संपन्न हो गई है और प्रतियोगिओं को घोषित ईनाम दे दिए गए हैं ; और

(ग) यदि, नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य-मंत्री (श्री के० पी० सिंह देव) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) दूरदर्शन द्वारा इस प्रकार की सूचना का रख-रखाव नहीं किया जाता।

Second channel of Bangalore Doordarshan

6979. **SHRI K. R. JAYADEVAPPA**: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka have been time and again requesting the Union Government to start a Second Channel of Bangalore Doordarshan, in view of the increasingly significant role of Bangalore in the National interest;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to start Second Channel of Bangalore Doordarshan; and

(c) if so, when it is going to be started and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) A Low Power TV Transmitter for relaying Metro Channel (DD-II) service is already functioning at Bangalore w.e.f. 15.10.1994, With a view to further augment Metro Channel

(DD-II) service at Bangalore, a scheme to upgrade the existing Low Power Transmitter into High Power (1 KW) Transmitter is under implementation.

(c) Does not arise.

Escalation in newsprint prices

6980. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the abnormal price rise of the newsprint, both imported and domestic;

(b) whether the local manufacturers of newsprint have hiked the prices to take the advantage of market forces.

(c) whether the MRTP provisions will not be applicable to the paper mills, as they are exploiting the situation; and

(d) whether Government will ask the MRTP to investigate the price hike of the newsprint by local paper mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The price increase of indigenous newsprint is reported to be mainly on account of rise in cost of coal, power; caustic soda; imported pulp and other raw materials. Government have, however, no information about the reasons of the price rise of imported newsprint.

(c) and (d) The Government have no statutory control over the price of newsprint which depends on the cost of various components as mentioned above. Therefore, there is no cause for the Government to refer the matter to the MRTPC. However, as a policy; every hike in newsprint prices is referred by the Government to Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) for a post facto study into its causes and justification.

Tie-up with CNN Television Network

6981. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a US television network CNN has sought uplink facilities in India;

(b) whether Government are considering the proposal for a tie-up between Doordarshan and CNN; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration.

Second Channel of Doordarshan in the State

6982. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where Second Channel of Doordarshan has not been started so far;

(b) whether Orissa is such a State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to set-up Second Channel for Doordarshan in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan Metro Channel (DD-II) is available through satellite transmission throughout the country and can be received through an appropriate dish-